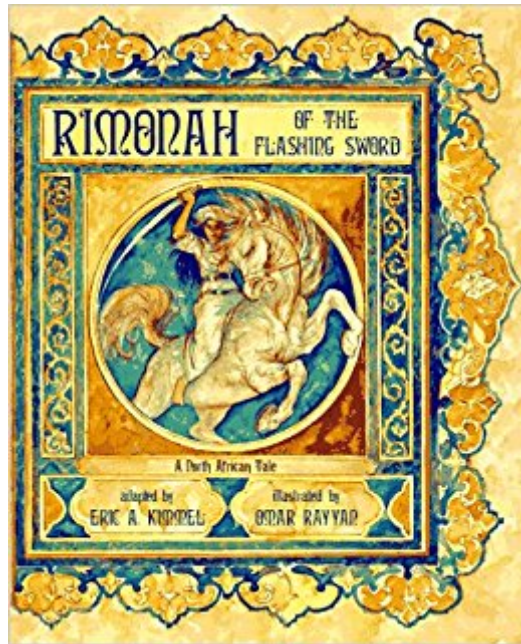


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Rimonah Of The Flashing Sword: A North African Tale



Synopsis

A North African version of Snow White, with 40 thieves in the role of the seven dwarfs. Eric Kimmel has completely reworked the story by turning Rimonah into a "fearless young woman who rode with the reckless daring of a bedouin horseman." Beautiful, layered watercolor illustrations greatly enhance the story. Full color.

Book Information

Hardcover: 1 pages

Publisher: Holiday House; 1st edition (March 1995)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0823410935

ISBN-13: 978-0823410934

Product Dimensions: 10.3 x 8.3 x 0.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 13.1 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 8 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #1,457,410 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #59 in Books > Children's Books > Fairy Tales, Folk Tales & Myths > African #1340 in Books > Children's Books > Fairy Tales, Folk Tales & Myths > Multicultural

Age Range: 4 and up

Grade Level: Preschool and up

Customer Reviews

Snow White meets Ali Baba in this adaptation of a North African fairy tale. The heroine, Rimonah (the name means "pomegranate"), has skin as dark as a pomegranate, eyes bright as pomegranate seeds and a voice sweet as pomegranate juice. Her fate is much like Snow White's, except that she finds refuge with bedouins, not dwarves, and learns from them how to handle a sword. Forced to flee a second time, she seeks asylum in a den of 40 thieves before a final showdown with her evil stepmother. Kimmel's writing is fluid as ever, but the design of this book is decidedly off-putting. Set in a clunky font, blocks of text, one or two per page, seemed crammed on top of the illustrations, themselves very busy. The sand-colored borders further compete for the reader's attention. Heavily overdone. Ages 4-8. Copyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Kindergarten-Grade 4? Many elements of this North African version of "Snow White" are familiar: a good queen who dies, a jealous stepmother who wants to do away with her stepdaughter, a group

of outcasts who provide shelter for the princess, and the heroine's deathlike trance and glass coffin. In other ways, however, Rimonah defies the passive, Eurocentric stereotype. Living with a Bedouin tribe after fleeing her stepmother, she next takes up with a band of 40 thieves. Formerly honest men, they accept Rimonah as one of their own, and she rides with them against the new queen. Kimmel's adaptation is lucid, unfolding at a leisurely pace that allows the tale to develop fully. His mastery is evident in his careful choice of words and his uncanny sense of pacing and rhythm. A note cites the source of the tale and the influences inspiring the work. The text, printed in bold, ornate type that is clear and attractive, is integrated perfectly into Rayyan's gorgeous watercolor paintings. The illustrations are full of movement and energy and make excellent use of light and shadow. The colors, at once muted and vibrant, glow on the page, lending a rich texture to the entire book. In his note, the artist states that he has combined elements of different traditions, setting the story in "...the more ambiguous world of folklore." This title deserves a place in every collection. ?Donna L. Scanlon, Lancaster County Library, PA Copyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc.

So my seven year old granddaughter's only request for Christmas this year was "I Am Malala." Cool kid or what! We really liked this book for both the story (Rimonah isn't a passive silly like Snow White) and the illustrations. We love good art work!

Rimonah of the flashing sword is both beautifully written and illustrated. The heroine, following the lead of many tales written before those of the Grimm brothers, is strong and dynamic. Both my son and my daughter love this story, and I enjoy reading it over and over again. The illustrations are rich and colorful and the language is not dumbed down as in so many other books for children of this age. Under Kimmel's eloquent pen, "And they lived happily ever after" becomes " And so, all that was sorrowful ended in joy and all that was wrong was made right again. So may it be forever." This book is a true gem.

This was my favorite childhood book, I've been searching for it for years!

Absolutely a must-read, one of my new favorites. It is essentially the story of Snow White, with a strong and capable character playing the princess. The illustrations are exquisite, and the story is gripping. This is really Kimmel at his best.

As you read it, you'll find many characters from the Arabian Nights. The spell bounding illustrations characteristic of Eric A. Kimmel add to the feel of being in a fantasy world.

This story starts out in the usual way: queen has baby girl, queen dies, wicked stepmother orders girl killed. Of course, the girl doesn't die, but she doesn't take up cleaning house for the Dwarven Miners Union, either. She proves herself adaptable, courageous, resourceful . . . some of the characteristics I love in my daughter. Another nifty thing is the surprise turn in the plot whenever I thought I could predict the next scene. After reading myriad fairy tales, both the surprises and the strong heroine (but strong men, too!) were quite refreshing. And I even liked her father the king. . . .Eric Kimmel writes well consistently; this is one of his best.

"Rimonah was born with skin as dark as a pomegranate's peel and a voice as sweet as a pomegranate's juice..." begins Eric A. Kimmel's adaptation of this rich North African tale. Kimmel has brought readers a tale where beauty is defined with the loveliness of darkness, and the heroine fights for her freedom from the oppression of the evil queen. Its a great book for boys and girls - adventure for all. I only wish that illustrator Omar Rayyan had taken the opportunity to provide us with a darker skinned heroine.

Says 4-8yrs, but any book that mentions death especially of a human is a 5+ for me, and this one goes on to say the stepmother ofmrders a daughter KILLED...sorry, but now we're in 6yr old territory...

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